

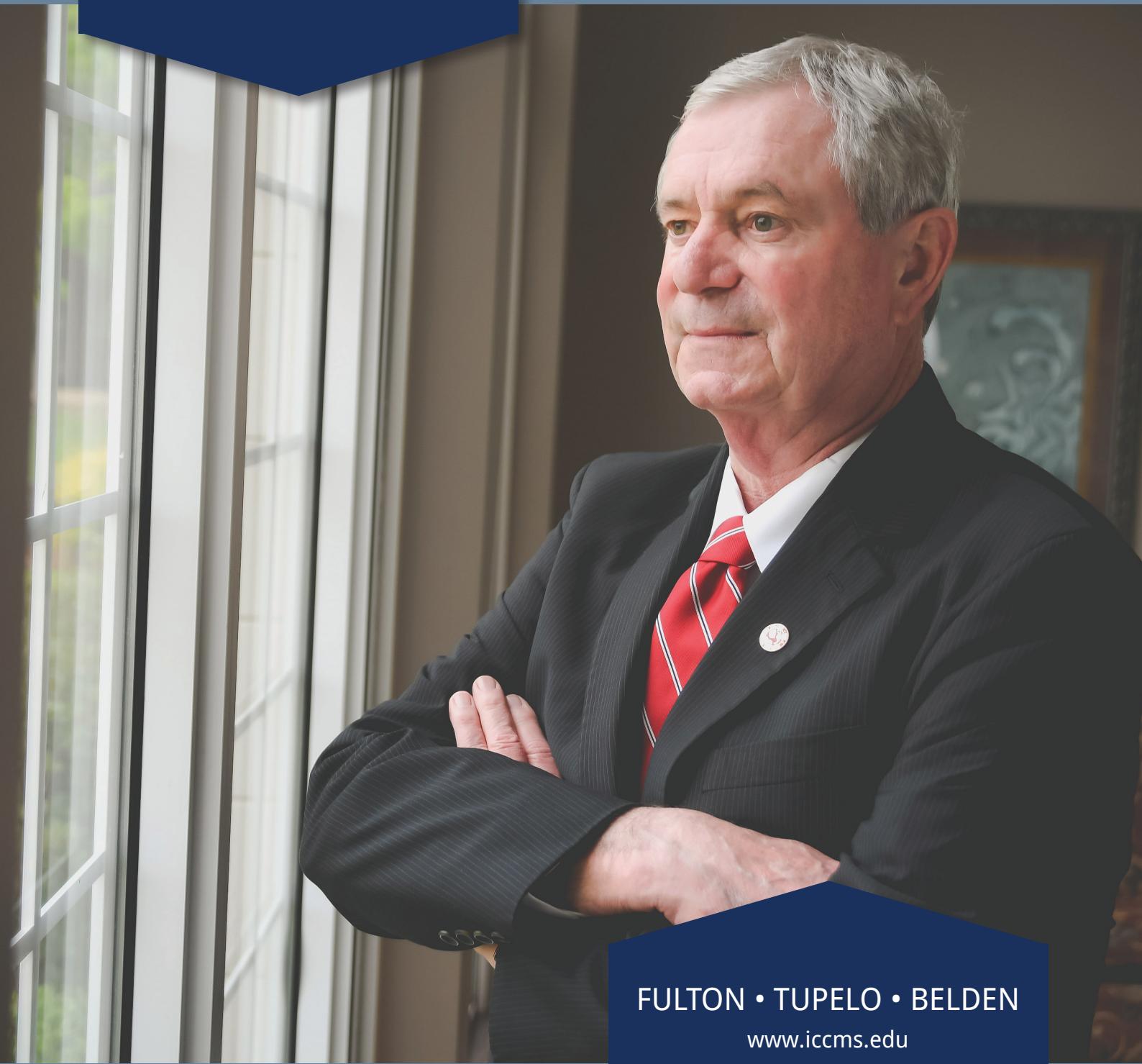
2017

ITAWAMBA COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ANNUAL EDITION

REFLECTIONS

As President Mike Eaton bids farewell to the college he's called home for 43 years, he reflects on its history and his last year as president.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

R

REFLECTIONS

A REVIEW OF ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR AND A 43-YEAR HISTORY WITH ITAWAMBA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Soon after you read this message, I will be completing 43 years of service to Itawamba Community College and transitioning into retirement.

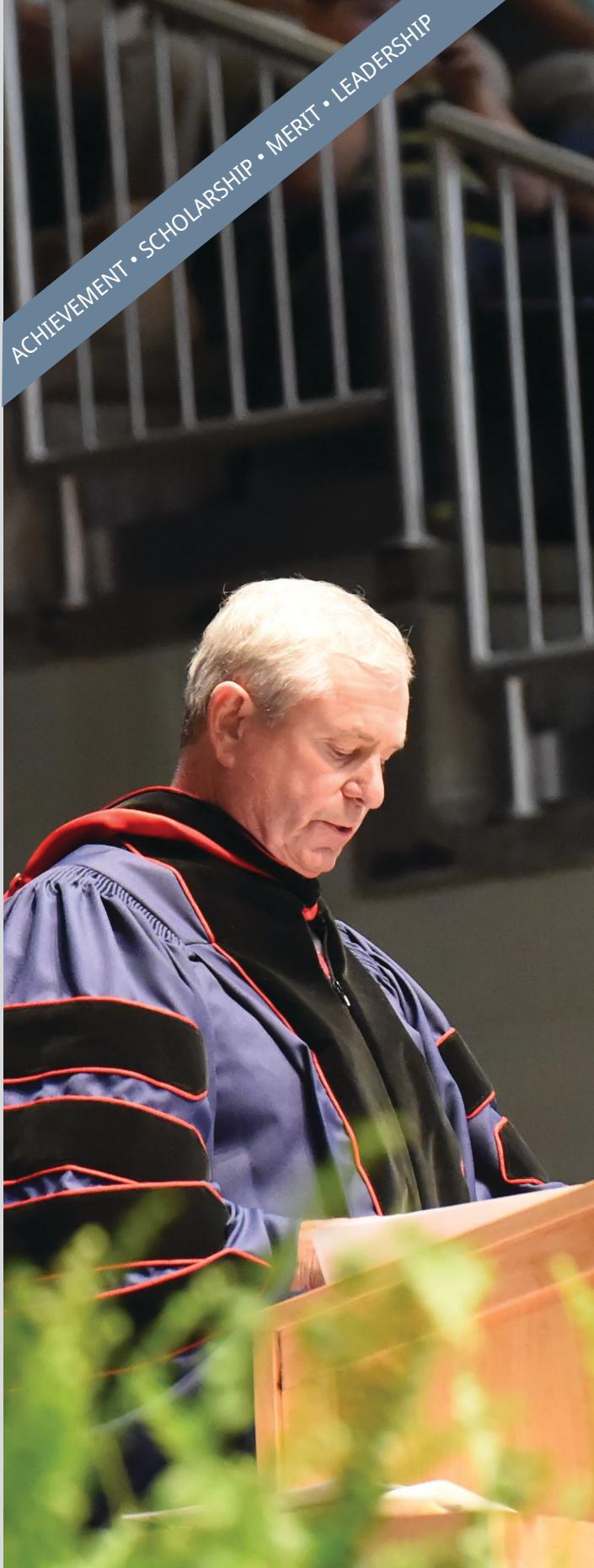
Although many verbalize this same thought, I don't know where the time has gone. My history with ICC began with the first time I stepped on the Fulton Campus as an assistant football coach for the legendary Ben Jones. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve in a multitude of roles, and each has presented its individual challenges and opportunities. I am extremely proud of the success of Itawamba Community College, which is a reflection of the commitment of my visionary predecessors, the foresight of the Board of Trustees and dedication of our faculty and staff. Our students continue to remain the College's top priority, as they have since the College was founded in 1948. Their success is our success.

Since we have last visited through the pages of this

report, it's been a whirlwind year for ICC. The pages of the calendar have been packed with special events and activities such as the preparation for the October site visit by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, the Furniture Academy partnership, construction on both the Fulton and Tupelo Campuses and the recognition of multiple achievements by the College, faculty and students. In addition, a record eight new endowments will provide unlimited opportunities for students to achieve their life dreams and goals.

I have had a wonderful 43 years at the College (21 of those I lived on campus), and I have been greatly blessed. I value your friendship as well as your loyalty and support of Itawamba Community College. I hope that you will join me in continuing our connection with the ICC family. I'll always be an ICC Indian!

ACHIEVEMENT • SCHOLARSHIP • MERIT • LEADERSHIP



Approximately 600 graduates participated in two commencement ceremonies, May 13, in the Davis Event Center at the ICC Fulton Campus.

HIGH NOTES



P PROUD

ICC CONTINUES TO MAKE STRIDES TOWARD GREATNESS, AND ACHIEVEMENTS REACH HIGHS

- ICC has been ranked third in Mississippi by OnlineColleges.com, a leading resource for individuals who want reliable information about online colleges and degree programs. The ranking includes both two- and four-year colleges and universities. In addition, ICC ranks 112th in the nation.
- ICC's students performed at a higher level than the national average on three of the five instructional areas on the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) Test administered during the 2016 spring semester. "ICC's better than national average scores on the majority of the CAAP assessment is validation of the excellent foundation provided by our instructional services area, particularly our faculty," said ICC President Mike Eaton.

O OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE BEST IN THE NATION



ICC's Occupational Therapy Technology program has been recognized as one of the best in the nation by the Community for Accredited Online Schools (AccreditedSchoolsOnline.org).

As a leading source for higher education and college accreditation information, the site released its annual ranking for the 2016-17 school year, honoring ICC as the fifth best Occupational Therapy program in the nation.



CONTINUING TO GROW *a beautiful future*

When Itawamba Junior College opened in 1948 as an extension of Itawamba Agricultural High School, it was situated on what was once a cotton and cornfield on a 100-acre parcel of land purchased for \$4,000.

Today's Itawamba Community College is considered one of the premier institutions in the nation with three state-of-the-art facilities nestled within some of the most beautiful landscaping anywhere.

In fact, the story goes that local residents are so proud to be home to the College that they always include ICC in a tour for out-of-towners.

Growth and progress are synonymous with Itawamba Community College for the last 68 years.

CAMPUS GROWTH & BEAUTY

C CONSTRUCTION COLLEGE CELEBRATES GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT AT ALL THREE LOCATIONS

Demolition at the ICC Tupelo Campus in the last few months has changed its face forever. It's part of a five-year plan that is transforming the campus from outdated buildings and facilities to one for which the centerpiece is a general academic building to be built on the site where the administration building was located.

Construction will begin approximately July 1 on the facility, which will house a commons area, food services, classrooms and administrative offices.

On the Fulton Campus, a \$3.5 million FEMA grant is providing funds for a band hall/safe room, which is nearing completion. The 13,585-square-foot facility is located east of the Davis Event Center, along Main Street, and will have the capacity to protect 2,319 students, faculty and staff from wind speeds up to 250 miles per hour. The facility should be ready for use for the fall semester.

Additional facility upgrades and construction include the conversion of the Technical Education building at the Tupelo Campus to a Natural Science facility and the Health Science building to an Academic building at the Fulton Campus as well as a new indoor practice facility. Improvements have also been made to the softball field, the women's soccer complex and Cresap Field. A new ropes course, which is a component of the Blue Cross & Blue Shield Foundation, WellFIT 365 grant, is providing an opportunity for team building exercises for students, faculty and staff as well as members of the community.



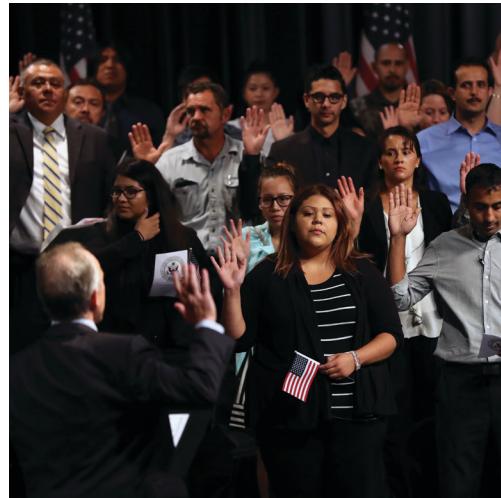
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



MAKING A DIFFERENCE
ICC HOSTS NUMEROUS EVENTS TO GIVE
BACK TO THE COMMUNITY.



NATURALIZATION CEREMONY



CONFERENCE
ON AGING



Itawamba Community College was a part of history, September 16, when it hosted a naturalization ceremony, the first ever on a Mississippi community college campus.

The event was a part of a national celebration of citizenship and the U.S. Constitution. Sixty individuals from 22 countries took the oath of citizenship during the ceremony.

Chief U.S. District Judge Sharion Aycock presided over the ceremony, which she called a “perfect opportunity for students to witness a piece of history and simultaneously learn more about the U.S. Constitution, which is a core part of our democracy.”

The audience joined in waving American flags in celebration, and more than a few joined the new citizens in tears of joy.

A record number of caregivers and professionals gathered at the ICC Belden Center, Apr. 27, for the eighth annual Northeast Mississippi Conference on Aging.

The conference was designed to foster interdisciplinary interactions among clinical and administrative healthcare professionals concerned with aging.

Among the topics were person-centered care, partners in care, elder abuse, age-related changes that happen to everyone and the effect of Southern culture on health.



BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



WELLFIT RUN

For the first time, ICC's WellFIT 365 joined Fulton's Bluegrass, Blues and BBQ for a chance to raise health and activity awareness through a 5K run, Apr. 29, at the Play Garden Park Pavilion on the city's historic town square.

ICC's faculty, staff and students, as well as members of the community were invited to participate in the age-division awarded race, which was a partnership with the city of Fulton as well as the Fulton Chamber of Commerce.



COMMUNITY TAILGATE

Members of the community participated in a tailgate contest on the lawn of the Davis Event Center, Sept. 22, prior to ICC's football game with East Mississippi Community College, which was also Military Appreciation Night.

Square Gift Company of Fulton was judged best among the entries based on creativity, pride, food and atmosphere. The teams of three tailgate leaders set up for visitors to mingle and stop for a sample. Additional awards were presented to the ICDC, Best Food; Science Club, Best Atmosphere; and Indian Delegation, Most Spirit.

The tailgate contest was sponsored by ICC's Community Relations Department.



DENIM & DIAMONDS

ICC's community partnerships extended this year as a sponsor of the second annual Denim & Diamonds, a fundraiser for the Itawamba Crossroads Ranch, which was Apr. 8, at Sheffield Manor.

The facility for which a lodge is under construction provides a safe and nurturing environment for young adults with TBIs, Down Syndrome and Autism to live and work in a supportive community.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

F FURNITURE ACADEMY PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES TO THE COMMUNITY IN FURNITURE MANUFACTURING

ICC is providing a first-in-line opportunity for a furniture manufacturing job with the inception of the Furniture “Certified” Academy.

The purpose of the 28-hour course is to give graduates a chance to go to the front of the hiring line at participating furniture industries, which will result in a higher base pay when they are employed. Graduates will also earn two national credentials (OSHA 10 and WorkKeys Career Readiness Certificate) when they pass the courses.

“The Furniture Academy will ensure Mississippi has a skilled, robust workforce to meet the demand of the region’s manufacturers,” said Miss. Gov. Phil Bryant in making the announcement. “I am grateful to the local industries, educational systems and community organizations whose partnership make it a reality.”

ICC President Mike Eaton commended Gov. Bryant for his vision. “When you start a collaboration and



having the financial support and backing, great things are going to happen. Not only are we improving the workforce, we are going to change lives. We at Itawamba are proud to be a part of this.”

This is the first program of the Mississippi Works Fund legislation signed into law by Gov. Bryant in 2016. Application was made through the Mississippi Development Foundation, which is the agency that awarded the funds to start the academy.

W WORKFORCE READY INITIATIVE ICC TO SERVE AS ANCHOR FOR WORKFORCE READY INITIATIVE

Itawamba Community College is one of three North Mississippi community colleges that will serve as anchors for a \$10.5 million initiative to produce a workforce ready to work in the state's growing automotive, aerospace and advanced manufacturing sector, according to a news release from U.S. Senator Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Cochran announced the awards which are funded through \$16 million appropriated by Congress in FY2016 for ARC to support workforce training programs in southern and south-central Appalachia.

“These education and training projects will increase opportunities for Mississippians to develop the skills to work in our state's expanding aerospace, automotive and manufacturing industries,” said Cochran, who is chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. “I appreciate the confidence the Appalachian Regional Commission is placing in the potential of Mississippi's workforce to support more manufacturing jobs.”

ICC will have \$2 million available through a \$1.2 million ARC grant and an \$800,000 matching contribution to

renovate 21,200 square feet of space within its Belden Center for robotics and precision manufacturing technology programs. The ARC funding will allow ICC to install tool and die and robotics laboratories in the renovated Belden Center, making possible the consolidation of related training programs into one facility.

ICC President Mike Eaton concurs. “The workforce readiness in North Mississippi is primarily dependent upon the training and foundation provided by its community colleges. The funds will enable ICC to continue to improve the workforce readiness of its students, ensuring a continuing supply of workers for area manufacturers.”

“Southern Appalachia's manufacturing industry is growing,” said Earl Gohl, Federal Co-Chair of the ARC. “These investments will help Mississippi's manufacturing workforce become skilled, ready and globally competitive.”

East Mississippi Community College and Northwest Mississippi Community College will share in the initiative.

ICC/2nd CHANCE MISSISSIPPI IMPLEMENT PILOT PROGRAM

Itawamba Community College and 2nd Chance MS, Inc. announced the implementation of a pilot program that will help 50 low-income northeast Mississippians to obtain both their high school equivalency and a Manufacturing Skills Basic Certification, significantly enhancing their ability to obtain employment from the major employers and industries in the area.

The joint program is based on the idea that modest support and financial incentives will significantly increase the number of undereducated, unskilled and unemployed adults in Mississippi who will enroll in and complete the adult education and workforce training programs at all 15 of Mississippi's community colleges.

Under the pilot program, ICC will select 50 low-income adults in northeast Mississippi who do not have their high school equivalency or the necessary work skills to obtain meaningful non-minimum wage employment.

The adults will be enrolled in ICC's six-month dual adult education/Manufacturing Basic Skills Certification program, and upon completion, they will earn the high school equivalency, several valuable skill certifications and the ability to obtain meaningful employment from the major employers and industries in the area.

2nd Chance will provide students with modest financial support, including tuition assistance, \$20 weekly gas cards to assist with transportation and/or food while completing the program and a graduation success fee of \$250 per pilot student upon the program's completion.

2nd Chance's core mission is to raise awareness, funds and support for adult education and work skills training in Mississippi, which has the highest adult dropout rate and the second lowest labor participation rate in the United States. 2nd Chance believes that an educated and skilled workforce is Mississippi's clearest path to prosperity and growth.



Toni Avant addresses the participants at the Employability Boot Camp.

E EMPLOYABILITY BOOT CAMP ASSISTING EMPLOYMENT SEEKERS TO BECOME MORE MARKETABLE AND VALUABLE

A free three-day Employability Boot Camp at the Belden Center in late March assisted those who are seeking a job, desiring to upgrade their job or who are exploring a career change. Megan Watt, speaker, author, career coach, facilitator and the Chief Dream Maker of Dream Catalyst Labs taught participants how to be superior to hundreds of other applicants. At its conclusion, they left with tangible actions to make themselves more marketable and valuable to potential employers.

Other speakers included Toni Avant, director of the Career Center at the University of Mississippi; Josh Mabus, president and founder of the Mabus

Agency; and Shane Homan, senior vice president of economic development for the Community Development Foundation.

"I think the event was a great success," said Jason Spradlin, accountability specialist. "The participants came away with a better understanding of their own unique strengths and talents and how to market and communicate those to potential employers. Not only did they end the weekend with valuable tools that they could put to immediate use, most participants came away feeling empowered and encouraged regarding their search for a new career."

Sponsors were Community Bank, 2ndChanceMS.org, Families First and ICC.

FOUNDATION

A

A RECORD YEAR

Eight Endowments Bring Foundation Giving to an All-Time High

Students for years to come can benefit from the generosity of several families and individuals who have endowed scholarships at Itawamba Community College during 2016-17.

It was indeed a record year of endowments to the ICC Foundation, Inc. with eight added to ensure an opportunity for college attendance and success for those with financial need.



FRANKLIN

"THE NEXT LEVEL" ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship, established by Hassell H. Franklin, is for full-time Chickasaw County students either who are employed with Franklin Corporation or their children. It is an opportunity for recipients to reach the next level in attaining their educational goals. Potential for success in college and financial need are considered.

WHEELER

BILLY WHEELER ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Established by the family and friends of ICC Foundation past president Billy Wheeler, this scholarship commemorates his overflowing love for ICC. He attended IJC after his graduation from Fulton High School and service in the Army. In 1998, Wheeler was selected as the College's Alumnus of the Year. He became the owner of Weatherall's, Inc. in Tupelo in 1964.

BAKER

DONALD A. BAKER ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

To commemorate his 80th birthday and in recognition of his 30 years of service to ICC, the family and friends of Donald A. Baker established this scholarship for full-time students from Monroe County. His service includes more than 20 years as a member of the ICC Board of Trustees and more than 25 years as a member of the Foundation Board.

JOYNER

ERNEST AND JAMIE JOYNER ADULT LEARNER ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Their passion for education and their desire for adult learners to attain their dreams led Ernie and Jamie Joyner of Tupelo to establish this scholarship. Eligible students must be beginning their college career. He has served as a long-time board member and chairman of the ICC Foundation, Inc.

CLEVELAND

JOHN AND BETH CLEVELAND ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

The Clevelands, who are Itawamba County natives, endowed this scholarship for full-time students majoring in a math, science or engineering field of study. It provides half-tuition assistance for a maximum of four semesters. Both attended ICC where they participated in intercollegiate athletics and pursued majors in engineering and math and science education.

HOLLIS

DR. MARSHALL E. HOLLIS ENDOWED PHARMACY SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. Marshall E. Hollis endowed this one-year scholarship for sophomores enrolled full-time with a 3.0 GPA in the pre-pharmacy program at ICC. A pharmacist and owner of Hollis Pharmacy in Ripley, he contacted ICC with the desire to help because he believes in the community college system. His endowment will change the futures of pre-pharmacy students for years to come.

INAUGURAL JOHN & BETH CLEVELAND AWARD WINNER NAMED

ICC mathematics instructor Chris Cox of Tupelo is the beneficiary of a new award for an outstanding faculty member, thanks to the generosity of John and Beth Campbell, Fulton natives, who now reside in Kingwood, Tex.

The award was presented during the College's An Evening of Celebration: Honoring Academic Excellence Across the Curriculum at the Fulton Campus.

Cox has been at ICC since August 2011. Previously he was a teacher and baseball coach at New Albany High School. At ICC he is the sponsor of the Future Educators Association, coordinator for the District Junior High Mathematics Competition and has worked with the Fulton Church of

Christ to establish a campus ministry program. His other activities include deacon over adult education at the West Main Church of Christ. An ICC alumnus, Cox earned both the bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Mississippi. He has 12 additional hours in graduate level mathematics, and he will begin the doctoral degree program in community college leadership at Morgan State University this fall.

The award is a result of the Clevelands' second endowment to the ICC Foundation. The first was for an endowed scholarship. The Clevelands have three daughters, Megan, Courtney and Kellie Reed.

TILGHMAN

GENE M. TILGHMAN "GONE FISHING" ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

The legacy of Gene M. Tilghman, who retired from ICC after 35 years of teaching American history, lives on through this scholarship endowed by his family. The memorial scholarship will be awarded to a student who will be a member of the ICC Bass Fishing Team. A written essay and recommendation letter are required.

KLINE

TOMMY & NATALIE KLINE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

ICC students who are from Itawamba County and either employees of Kline Mechanical or their children will have an opportunity to attain their educational goals through this endowed full-tuition scholarship. The Klines met at then-Itawamba Junior College in the spring of 1976. Both credit the College for the significant difference their educational foundation made in their lives.



FIRST DONOR DINNER HELD AT ITAWAMBA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The recipients of Itawamba Community College's Foundation scholarships were honored and recognized at a dinner, Oct. 11, at the Fulton Campus.

For the first time, scholarship donors had the opportunity to meet their recipients and become better acquainted during the event.

Program participants included Ronnie Boozer; vice president of the Foundation board; Jim Ingram, director of the ICC Foundation, Inc.; the Chamber Singers under the direction of Karen Davis and Dr. Bob Taylor; Rayburn Parks, president of the Foundation board; Dr. Jan Reid-Bunch, executive director of Community Relations; and Mike Eaton, president of ICC.



21ST ANNUAL *Gospel* **BLUEGRASS CONCERT**

benefiting the ICC Foundation

Dailey & Vincent, Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver and Rhonda Vincent & the Rage had toes tapping during ICC's 21st annual gospel and bluegrass concert at the Davis Event Center at the Fulton Campus on Mar. 4.

As the lights dimmed, the audience honored America, the region's veterans and armed services personnel as Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver performed the National Anthem.

Good music and good times started with opening act, Tombigbee Divide of Tremont, which earned that status through winning the Pickin' in the Pines competition a couple of weeks before. It was the first time in history that a concert opener was selected to perform. Oddly enough, ICC's concert last year played a role in its formation since two of the members met for the first time when they were admiring the instruments on display at that event. Members of the group include Taylor Pharr, Bryan Letson, Daniel Sturdivant, Zach Lentz and Jacob Patterson.

The concert lineup included repeat performers who have appeared on the Davis Event Center stage





multiple times. Dailey & Vincent is one of the top bluegrass bands in America. Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver are seven-time winners of IBMA's Vocal Group of the Year. With more than 70 awards to its name, Rhonda Vincent & The Rage is one of the most celebrated bands in bluegrass.

This year, through sponsorships and ticket sales, ICC's Foundation netted approximately \$53,000 for scholarships for future students. This is the second year that the concert benefited the Foundation. Nurturing the College's philanthropic spirit while providing necessary resources that will make a profound difference in the lives of area residents creates strong partnerships within ICC's community and region.

Each year, faculty, staff and students provide hours of volunteer service for the event as ushers, ticket sellers and concession stand workers, and this year was no exception.

ICC's gospel and bluegrass concert was conceived by Buster Davis and through his loyal and dedicated leadership and the support of his late twin brother, Bud, this much-anticipated event has continued to be successful.

The 21st gospel and bluegrass concert was sponsored by ICC's Community Relations Department.





ACCOMPLISHED FACULTY AND STAFF

I INSTRUCTOR FLIES TO NEW HEIGHTS BOB SWANSON NAMED MSVCC INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR AND SELECTED FOR NASA'S SOFIA PROGRAM

Bob Swanson of Tupelo, astronomy instructor at Itawamba Community College, has been named Mississippi Virtual Community College Instructor of the Year.

The voting committee cited Swanson's significant use of multi-media by adding and recording videos as something that sets his class apart, according to Denise Gillespie, dean of eLearning.

Criteria for selection include demonstrates a genuine concern for students and the capability to inspire them; inspires students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn; motivates students to learn and

facilitates in-depth learning; develops meaningful and innovative curricula; has the respect and admiration of his colleagues; among others.

Swanson participated in one of NASA's 11 educator teams for its Airborne Astronomy Ambassadors program and flew on its Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy in March. The program is a professional development opportunity for educators designed to improve teaching methods and inspire students. SOFIA is based at NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center's facility in Palmdale, Calif.

meritorious achievement 2017 WINNERS

Four faculty and staff members at Itawamba Community College have been selected as recipients of Meritorious Achievement awards for 2016-17. The Meritorious Achievement award is the most prestigious honor bestowed on a faculty or staff member for exemplary service to the College.



DR. BRAD BOGGS
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT
AFFAIRS

Dr. Brad Boggs has served in several roles at ICC since 2001 including associate dean of applied science and technologies and tech prep coordinator and recruiter.



MANDE WARD MILLER
DIRECTOR OF ADVISING

Mande Miller joined the ICC staff in 2002 as an academic counselor. She was also cheer coach for five years.



ASHLEY BROWN
INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE
INSTRUCTOR

Ashley Brown has been at ICC since 2008. He also has 13 years of service in the Mississippi Army National Guard.



BOB SWANSON
ASTRONOMY INSTRUCTOR

Bob Swanson's career includes professional meteorologist, six years as a TV weatherman and four years as assistant weather editor of USA Today.

A

ACHIEVEMENTS

FACULTY AND STAFF MAKE STRIDES TOWARD HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS

- **Suzette Potts** of Saltillo, English composition and British literature instructor, was selected as ICC's William Winter Scholar for 2017. She was recognized during the 28th Annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, Feb. 23-25.
- **Jonathan Armstrong** of Fulton, English instructor, was ICC's recipient of the Mississippi Humanities Council 2016 Teacher Award. He presented "I Know I Can! Confidence and Success in the College Classroom," Oct. 24.
- ICC's **Anna Britt-Begnaud** of Tupelo, Communications Division chair, and **Emily Lamb** of Dorsey, coordinator of Supportive Services, were 2016 graduates of the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy.
- **Dr. Laura Pannell** of New Albany, lead online instructor for psychology/educational psychology/social work/gerontology at ICC since 2006, was selected as one of seven recipients of the Women of Distinction awards from the New Expectations for Women in North Mississippi.
- Participants in ICC's Leadership Development Institute for 2016-17 included **Cheree Brown**, **Dr. Betsy Chesnutt**, **Chris Cox**, **Tonya Davis**, **Michael Holloway**, **Julia Houston**, **Stacey Hughes**, **Cindy Layman**, **Dr. Joe Lowder**, **Dr. Jada Mills**, **Tequila Sunrise** and **Emily Tucker**.
- Recipients of Recognition of Excellence, Support Staff Employee Awards for 2016-17 include **Colby Hannon**, **Jennifer McFerrin** and **Candace Pitts**. Last year, the recipients were **Kevin Doler**, **Martha Dye** and **Jimmy "Jimbo" Umfress**.
- Meritorious Achievement for 2015-16 award winners were **Cassie Alexander**, **Larry Boggs**, **Denise Gillespie** and **Dr. Jada Mills**.
- **Robin Lowe** of Amory, English composition and American literature instructor, was selected to represent ICC at the Higher Education Appreciation Day – Working for Academic Excellence, Feb. 21.
- **Cay Lollar** of Mantachie, director of admissions/registrar, was a 2016 graduate of the Education Policy Fellowship Program.
- ICC's Community Relations staff received several 2016 awards from the College Public Relations Association of Mississippi. They include **Maggie Caldwell**, **Adam Gore**, **Lee Adams**, **Tyler Camp**, **Raphael Henry**, **Kim Williams** and **Donna Thomas**.
- Four ICC faculty members represented ICC at the annual Lamplighter Conference in October. They include **Linda Bond**, **Billy Carson**, **Emily Loden Jones** and **Jessi Stevenson**.
- A retirement reception was held on May 2 honoring **Jeff Bates**, **Dean Burchfield**, **Linda Campbell**, **Mike Eaton**, **Pat Gladney**, **Nicole Graham**, **Violet Jefcoat**, **Jeff Myers**, **Julia Puckett**, **Rick Spencer**, **Rhonda Stevens** and **Sarah Vasser**, all pictured right.



Retiree Dean Burchfield holds his granddaughter at the retirement reception.



M MOST BEAUTIFUL TAYLOR KENNEDY

Taylor Kennedy of Hatley, left, has been selected as Itawamba Community College's Most Beautiful 2017. Approximately 40 contestants competed in the annual pageant, Feb. 27, at the Fulton Campus. The top five are, in the image below, from left, Tessa Ewing of Pontotoc, second beauty and Crowd Favorite award; Kateland Kennedy of Tupelo, first beauty; Kennedy; Georgia Kate Conner of Ripley, third beauty; and Madison McMillen of Mantachie, fourth beauty. Other awards included Jada Standifer of Amory, Most Photogenic; Artasia Lucas of Saltillo, Most Sponsors; Tyuna Thornton of Pittsboro, Most Social; and Taylor Kelley of Belden, Miss Congeniality. The ICC Alumni Association sponsored the pageant.

Most Beautiful will serve as a spokeswoman for the College at alumni events throughout the 2017-2018 academic year.





honors night AN EVENING OF CELEBRATION

Itawamba Community College's top scholars were honored during An Evening of Celebration: Honoring Academic Excellence Across the Curriculum at 6:30 p.m., Apr. 18, in the W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center auditorium at the Fulton Campus.

The speaker was the Honorable Mike Mills, District Judge for the United States District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi. Mills is an alumnus of ICC, the University of Mississippi and its School of Law and the University of Virginia School of Law. From 1984-95, he served as a Mississippi Representative, and in 2001 President George W. Bush nominated him to sit on the United States District Court.

Honorees included Margaret Hatcher, Juan Garza, Donathaniel Keith, Vickie Renfro, Tyler Davis, Tucker Robbins, Adrian Moffett, Jared Shields, Laken Jones,

Jackie Ivy Jr., Cameron Lima, Kathryn Knippers, Lisa Hudson, Hagan Box, David Mills, Johnny Davis, Kristen Gasaway, Marissa Hammock, Kaitlyn Hall, Robert Lampkin, Carmen Perkins, Jeffrey Wade, Dakota Tutor, Kennedy Warren, Nick Harmon, Patrick Pearson, Nicole Sumerel, Ashlynn Beam, William Cooper, Justin Gary, Javonis Adams, Jimmy Coker, Joshua Shelton, April Derryberry, Blake Guntharp, Benjamin Chandler, Ariel Burger, Bailey Tutor, Hayden Baker, Allysa Lipsey, Charlee Sartin, Brandon Thames, Aryn Till, Aaron "Drake" Sanders, Mollie Davidson, Madison Nanney, Serenity Hawkins, Marissa Capriotti, Davette "Layne" Carnathan, Gregory Clark, Stuart Bennett, Abigail Chase, Brody Skinner, Daniel Sturdivant, Justin Leathers, Chayapat Tanopajai, Linda Spencer, William Kyle, Bryce Hunt, Jeffrey Wade, John Moore and Sabrina Crumpton.

LEADERSHIP • HARD WORK • DEDICATION • PERSEVERANCE • ACHIEVEMENT • SCHOLARSHIP • SUCCESS • HONORS

Mississippi All-Academic Team First Team member is Laken Jones. Awarded Second Team are Serenity Hawkins, Allysa Lipsey and Kathryn Knippers.

MBlake Guntharp has been named HEADWAE Outstanding Academic Student and Dowell Leadership Scholar.

MItawamba Community College sophomore Laken Jones has been named a 2017 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Bronze Scholar.



hall of fame

Twelve Itawamba Community College sophomores have been selected as members of the prestigious Hall of Fame for 2016-17.

They include Scott Dunahue, Serenity Hawkins, both of Saltillo; Jennifer Finnie of Nettleton; Margaret Hatcher, Taylor Kelley, Allysa Lipsey, Noah Tackitt, all of Pontotoc; Robert Lampkin of Hamilton; Taylor McKnight of Ecru; Adrian Moffett, Jared Shields, both of Becker; and Rita "Nicole" Sumerel of Mooreville.

ICC faculty and staff nominate members of the Hall of Fame each January. Qualifications include freshman and sophomore work at ICC and current enrollment in 12 or more semester hours with an overall GPA of 2.5 or better. Criteria for selection are active in college activities; good attitude toward students and staff; loyalty and service to the institution; initiative, reliability, leadership and character.

2016-2017 WHO'S WHO AMONG AMERICAN JUNIOR AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Allysa Alford
Stacy Barnes
Kristen Barefoot
Keysha Bradley
Lacey Brekeen
Abby Cantrell
Abigail Chase
Madison Colley
Mollie Davidson
Kimberly DeLane
Kristin Donovan
Anna Elliott
Jacob Frost

Sarah Garvin
Justin Gary
Jordan Ginn
Jamie Grisham
Blake Guntharp
Kamara Hall
Marissa Hammock
Summer Harris
Marlee Hatcher
Margaret Hatcher
Serenity Hawkins
Jacob Holt
Cassidy Hooper

Kanisha Howard
Bryce Hunt
Joshua Hutchenson
Laken Jones
Sheldon Kelly
Taylor Kelley
Kathryn Knippers
Robert Lampkin
Allysa Lipsey
Rebekah Mackain
Shanda Martin
Bailey McBrayer
Taylor McKinney

Taylor McKnight
Jordan Metcalfe
Thaddeus Middlebrook
Adrian Moffett
John Nance
Alayna Narred
Cindy Nguyen
Yen Nguyen
Marilyn Ramirez
Williams Riley
Tucker Robbins
Madison Roncalli
Alexandria Sappington

Kirkland Schlicht
Rebecca Sheffield
Joshua Shelton
Jared Shields
Demarus Stegall
Jasmyne Tally
Aryn Till
Jennifer Vasquez
Kennedy Warren
Brandy Williams
Christian Witherspoon

M

MR. & MISS ICC

BLAKE GUNTHARP AND
LAKEN JONES

Blake Guntharp of Pontotoc and Laken Jones of Belden were elected as Mr. and Miss Itawamba Community College for 2016-17.

Guntharp is majoring in biochemistry (pre-med) at ICC. His activities include Phi Theta Kappa Upsilon Sigma chapter president, Student Government Association vice president, Science Club treasurer, biology tutor, resident assistant, orientation leader and member of the Modern Foreign Language Club, Baptist Student Union, curriculum committee and disciplinary committee. His honors include Modern Foreign Language Department and Natural Science Division awards, Dowell leadership scholarship, HEADWAE Outstanding Academic Student, president's list and Who's Who Among Students in American Community and Junior Colleges. He is the son of Keith and Anna Guntharp and Keith and Melissa Lindsey.

Jones is majoring in occupational therapy at ICC where her honors include president's and dean's lists, Who's Who Among Students in American Community and Junior Colleges, 2017 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Bronze Scholar, All-Mississippi Academic Team first team and Phi Theta Kappa. She is a member of the All-American Marching Band, Indian Delegation, Baptist Student Union and the L.I.N. (Live Indian News) Report. Her parents are Tracy and Kimberla Jones.





H HOMECOMING 2016

COME CELEBRATE
COME HOME

“Come Celebrate, Come Home” was the theme for Homecoming 2016 at Itawamba Community College.

Among those who “came home” for reunions on Oct. 22 were former homecoming queens. Once again, they had an opportunity to “take the field” during special recognition during the game with Mississippi Delta.

Additional activities included a luncheon and awards presentation honoring Alumnus of the Year Robert Loden and Athletic Hall of Fame inductees Bryan Grissom and Max Munn; Red, Hot & Blue Tailgate; Fan and Little Indians’ Zone; Warpath Walk; pep rally; All-American Band performance; and recognition of the day’s honorees as well as the Homecoming court on the field.

The Homecoming court included Hallie Dobbs, queen; Jamiya Smith and Georgia Kate Conner, Fulton Campus sophomore maids; Allie Sappington and Kamara Hall,

Tupelo Campus sophomore maids; Jenna Hull and Alexis Harris, Fulton Campus freshman maids; and Jamiya Ni’shea Fields and Blakely Lollar, Tupelo Campus freshman maids.

A week of activities sponsored by the Student Government Associations on both the Fulton and Tupelo campuses led up to the “big day.”

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR AND ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME RECOGNIZED AT HOMECOMING 2016



- ROBERT LODEN
ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Robert Loden from Fulton was honored as the 2016 Alumnus of the Year during Itawamba Community College’s Homecoming festivities.



- BRYAN GRISOM
ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Bryan Grissom of Eads, Tenn. was inducted into the 2016 Athletic Hall of Fame after he received a plaque during the Homecoming on-field presentation.



- MAX MUNN
ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

President Mike Eaton presented 2016 Athletic Hall of Fame inductee Max Munn of Tupelo with a plaque during the Homecoming pre-game presentation.

EVENTS

I INDIAN WEEK

SPRING WEATHER MADE WAY
FOR STUDENT ACTIVITIES

In the past, it's had many themes...but the basic idea of Indian Week is just plain fun.

It's an opportunity for students at both the Fulton and Tupelo Campuses to "let off steam" and just relax before exams start.

This year's activities from Apr. 17-21 included cookouts and games, but there were new additions to the schedule as well including an Archery Air Raid, Zorb Racing (participants race each other on a track in air bubble balls) and an outdoor basketball tournament. The Tupelo Campus week featured such activities as bingo, a magician, hotdogs, lip sync contest, caricature artist, inflatable games

and a Career Boot Camp. Participants could participate in mock interviews and bring their resumes for critiquing to prepare them to enter the employment market.

Clues were given daily for students to "Find the Lost Indian," which would yield a prize to the lucky winner.

Students call Indian Week "one of ICC's most exciting times of the year. It's a great opportunity to socialize and meet new people, all while having great fun!"

The events on both campuses were sponsored by the Student Government Associations.



Tenth anniversary INDIAN IDOL

A large, semi-transparent black and white photograph of a woman singing into a microphone, looking upwards. She is wearing a dark, lace-patterned top.

In 2007, Itawamba Community College's Student Government Association sponsored the first Indian Idol, based on the hit TV show, American Idol. Just like the popular show, which ended last year, Indian Idol was an opportunity for ICC students to compete for the best vocalist trophy. And just like American Idol, ICC's version ended with the presentation of the 2017 trophy to Mackenzie Conn of Ethelsville, Ala.

Over the years, hundreds of ICC students have competed in multiple rounds of open auditions to make the final few to perform in the finale, always during Indian Week. This year, members of the audience texted their votes, too, which were counted along with those from volunteer judges. There's been talk about the return of American Idol. Who knows? Maybe it could happen with Indian Idol as well.



COLLIER BECOMES ALL-TIME WINNINGEST BASEBALL COACH



With a 10-3 win over Meridian Community College March 25, 2016, Itawamba Community College head coach Rick Collier surpassed Hall of Fame coach Roy Cresap to become the program's winningest coach with 452 wins.



ATHLETICS

SURPASSING MILESTONES

FOOTBALL BREAKS 20-YEAR-OLD NATIONAL JUNIOR COLLEGE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION PASSING RECORD

The ICC football team left its mark in the recently updated National Junior College Athletic Association football record book after breaking a 20-year-old passing record this past season.

The nationally-ranked Indians completed 271 passes in nine games to set the single-season team completions per game record with 30.11 to take over the top spot set by Vermilion (Minn.) Community College, according to Michael Teague, assistant director of Media Relations for the NJCAA.

Vermilion completed 301 of 492 passes in 10 games to set

the original single-season mark of 30.10 completions per game during the 1996 season. That season, quarterback Paul Chiochetto threw for 3,523 yards with 46 touchdowns and 11 interceptions while completing 61.1 percent of his passes to lead the Ironmen.

Peyton Bender (Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.), Dan Ellington (Olive Branch) and Montario Montgomery (Starkville) combined to complete 271 of 413 passes (65.6 percent) for 3,545 yards with 29 touchdowns and only five interceptions on the season.

S SPORTS HALL OF FAME

NANCI GRAY, WOMEN'S HEAD BASKETBALL
COACH NAMED TO PRESTIGIOUS MACJC HONOR

Nanci Gray of Tupelo, Itawamba Community College women's basketball coach, was inducted into the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges Sports Hall of Fame, Apr. 25, in Pearl.

The ceremony was held at 6 p.m. at the Muse Center of Hinds Community College.

Gray has completed her eleventh season as head coach of the Lady Indians basketball team. After spending more than 27 years in high school education at Houlka, Bruce and Tupelo and 17 years as a head coach, she led the Lady Indians to the 2008 and 2012 state championships for which she was named Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges Coach of the Year.

In her first year as head coach of the Lady Indians, Gray's team posted a 14-12 record and advanced to the State and Region 23 tournaments. In 2007-08, the 21-9 Lady Indians were both MACJC North Division and State champions. During her tenure, Gray has led the program to three NJCAA Region 23 Championships, three MACJC titles and six MACJC North Division crowns.

The Lady Indians finished 19-10 and won the 2013 NJCAA Region 23 Championship to advance to the NJCAA National Tournament in Salina, Kan., the program's first appearance in the National Tournament since 1975. In 2014-15, Gray picked up her 600th career win.

Among her honors are TriLakes Conference Coach of the Year, Mississippi Association of Coaches North All-Star Coach, Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal Coach of the Year (multiple years), Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal Lee County Coach of the Year (multiple years), Mississippi Association of Coaches Coach of the Year, Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges Coach of the Year (multiple years) and NJCAA Region 23 Coach of the Year (multiple years). She was selected to the ICC Hall of Fame in 1998. In addition, she has coached a Mississippi Gatorade Player of the Year, SEC Freshman of the Year, All-SEC team members, WNBA Player for Indiana Fever and Connecticut Suns, NJCAA Academic All-Americans and NJCAA All-Americans.

Gray's impressive resume' includes a stellar career at Houlka High School and at ICC. At Houlka, Gray played varsity basketball all four years. In 1972, her team was state runner-up, and she was named MAC All-State and in 1974, MAC All-Star Player. At ICC, in 1975 she was a member of the revitalized women's basketball team, which in its first year won the MACJC State Championship, Region 23 Championship and participated in the NJCAA National Tournament in Vincennes, Ind. She was named honorable mention, All-American.

Gray's additional honors and activities include Special Olympics Coach, Special Olympics International Games (Notre Dame), Special Olympics World Games, Lee County Courier Women of the '90s and Teacher of Distinction at Tupelo High School.

She is married to Joel Gray. They have two children, Joseph (Kayla) Plunk and Tiffany (Daniel) Denton, and five grandchildren.





IMAGE BY: JOHN BOWEN PHOTO

EXCELLENCE ON THE FIELD & OFF

S STRONGEST MAN

FOOTBALL COACH RAY WILLIAMS BECOMES ONE OF THE STRONGEST MEN IN THE WORLD

ICC defensive line coach Ray Williams is known as one of the strongest men in the world. The Demopolis, Ala. native is one of 16 individuals from various sports around the world who were nominated as a candidate for the International World Games Association Athlete of the Year, an honor that was received after winning his third-straight International Powerlifting Federation Classic World Powerlifting Championship.

In October of 2016, Williams became the first man to squat over 1,000 pounds raw when he moved 1,005.3 pounds at the USA Powerlifting Nationals in Atlanta, Ga. IPF raw standards include no squat suit, no knee wraps, and lifters have to unrack and walk the weight

out themselves - only a standard lifting belt and knee sleeves are allowed.

With a 529-pound bench press and 844-pound deadlift, the defensive line coach set an American Record and unofficial World Record with a super heavyweight powerlifting total of 2,378.7 pounds.

His lift of 1,005 pounds unofficially broke the previous World Record, held by Williams, by roughly 40 pounds. He will have to break the 1,000-pound mark in an international competition for it to be an official World Record.

Williams is no stranger to breaking records. During his first-ever international competition in 2014, he shattered the previous world squat record of 849 pounds with a mark of 903 and set a new total world record when he lifted a combined 2,138 pounds.

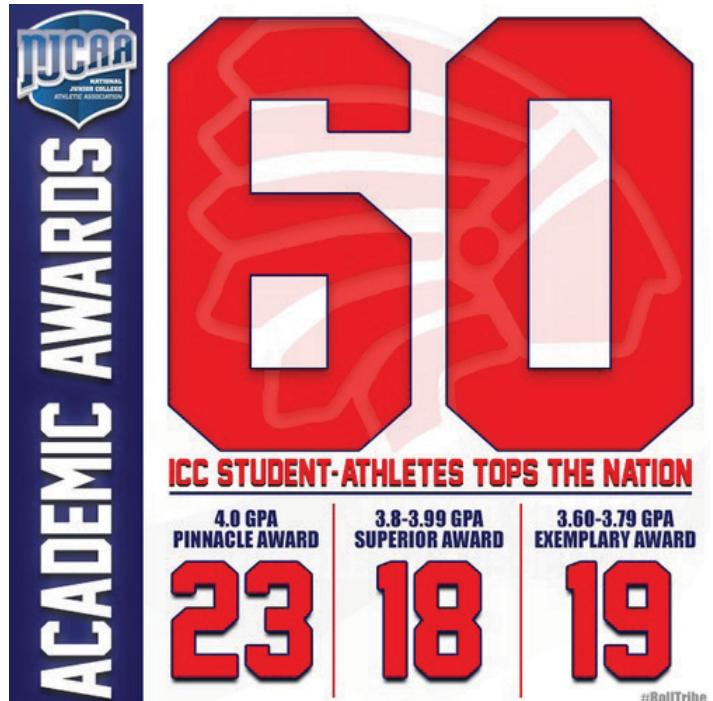
BREAKING RECORDS

L LEADERS

ICC LEADS NATION WITH 60 NJCAA ACADEMIC AWARDS

A nation-leading 60 Itawamba Community College student-athletes were honored when the National Junior College Athletic Association announced the recipients of the 2015-16 NJCAA Student-Athlete Academic Awards.

The NJCAA distinguishes each student-athlete who earns at least a 3.60 grade point average (GPA) with a minimum of 24 semester credit hours by placing them in three categories. The Pinnacle Award for Academic Excellence is awarded to individuals who achieve a 4.00 GPA while the Superior Academic Achievement Award is given to student-athletes with a 3.80 to 3.99 GPA and the Exemplary Academic Award to players with a 3.60 to 3.79 GPA.



N NJCAA ACADEMIC TEAM OF THE YEAR LADY INDIANS RECEIVE TOP HONORS

The Itawamba Community College women's soccer team was honored as the 2015-16 National Junior College Athletic Association Academic Team of the Year in Women's Soccer when the league announced its yearly honorees.

The team finished the school year with an impressive 3.78 grade point average which was third best among the national academic team of the year honorees.

Members of the 2015 squad include Hope Burton of Caledonia; Alyssa Park of Corinth; Kelsey McKnatt, Shannon Sullivan, both of Fulton; Rachel Stukenborg of Long Beach; Madison Parham of Mooreville; Hannah Anderson, Caroline Mueller, both of New Albany; Jessica Geraldson, Haley Merrell, both of Olive Branch; Karlee Grisham, Kate Hester, Breauna Holley, Summer Jensen, all of Pontotoc; Emily Buster of Prattville, Ala.; Macy Aycock, Katie Foshee, both of Southaven; Noa Hardin, Megan Moorhead, both of Starkville; Alyssa Stanford of Tupelo and Coach David Strother.



I

INDIAN PLAYERS

"SEND ME NO FLOWERS"
ON STAGE AT ICC

The production of "Send Me No Flowers" starred the main character George Kimball, a Westchester commuter whose favorite hobby is hypochondria. When he mistakenly overhears his doctor discussing another patient with heart trouble, he prepares to meet the end bravely, sure it is "his time". Putting his affairs in order, he writes a heartbreakingly letter to his wife to be read as his eulogy. He even arranges a good second husband for his soon-to-be widow, with a cemetery plot for the three: himself, his wife and the new, future "Mister Kimball".

The production cast and crew included Madison Nanney (Judy Kimball), Jared Shields (George Kimball), Eli Cox (Arnold Nash), Qeshawn Allen (Doctor Morrissey), Justin Gary (Vito), Taylor Kelley (Miss Mason), Jesse Duncan (Bert Power), Christopher Roberts (Mr. Atkins), Ashley Fullerton (Girl), Alexis Young (Costume/Set Designer) and Adrianna Guin (Stage Manager).





fine arts department DELIVERS STUNNING PERFORMANCES



Music, theatre and art...

The W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center at the Fulton Campus is always full of activity. There are art displays in the gallery and multiple performances by the All-American Band, jazz band, steel band, saxophone quartet, brass ensemble, concert band, symphonic band and wind band. And to prepare, there are rehearsals.

And if that weren't enough, there is a dinner theatre in late fall, for which the audience is standing room only.

Hundreds of Itawamba Community College students devote talent, time and energy each year to performances or displays in the arts that are always crowd-pleasers.



REAFFIRMATION OF ACCREDITATION



The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is a five-year assessment plan that will provide an institutional course of action to improve student learning. While it is a requirement for SACSCOC reaffirmation of accreditation, it provides ICC with the opportunity to focus on one area that will enhance student

learning. Through a comprehensive selection process during 2016, ICC chose the QEP topic of Reading Comprehension. The purpose of the QEP will be to provide students with strategies and vocabulary skills that improve reading comprehension.



Giving students tools for success

FACTS ABOUT THE QEP

Reading comprehension was chosen as the QEP topic for two reasons: area employers ranked "Reading for Information" as a strong need when surveyed in 2015 and a significant percentage of ICC students fall below what ACT calls "College Ready in Reading".

- 63 percent of 2016 ACT-tested high school seniors were below "College Ready in Reading" at ICC.
- 56 percent of 2016 ACT-tested high school seniors were below "College Ready in Reading" nationally.

"Reading comprehension is the process of simultaneously extracting and constructing meaning through interaction and involvement with all forms of written language." (Snow, 2002).

The reach of the QEP will be approximately 2,300 students or 41 percent of yearly enrollment over the five years of the project.

ICC will accomplish the QEP by embedding reading strategies into four courses that the majority of students will take, regardless of their degree path. This includes Public Speaking, General Psychology, Principles of Biology 1 and English Composition 1. The QEP will also be accomplished by providing students with comprehension tools that they can apply to real world situations and by training faculty to use these comprehension tools in their courses.

The student learning outcome goals for the QEP are that students will comprehend and apply concepts presented in college/career course-related settings, use specific reading strategies to improve vocabulary skills, and specific reading strategies to improve understanding and comprehension of content area texts.

Itawamba Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Vice President of Student Services, 602 West Hill Street, Fulton, MS 38843, 662.862.8271, TitleIXcoordinator@iccms.edu.

annual data

ITAWAMBA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES
412

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES
207

TOTAL EMPLOYEES
619

FULL-TIME INSTRUCTORS
177

STUDENT/FACULTY RATIO
17:1

FALL ENROLLMENT
5,425

IN-DISTRICT ENROLLMENT
80%

IN-STATE ENROLLMENT
98%

ELEARNING ENROLLMENT
(1 or more distance learning course)
60%

ELEARNING ENROLLMENT
(distance learning courses only)
24%

FALL 2016

ENROLLMENT FEMALE
59%

ENROLLMENT MALE
41%

ENROLLMENT AFRICAN-AMERICAN
25%

ENROLLMENT CAUCASIAN
69%

ENROLLMENT HISPANIC
2%

ENROLLMENT OTHER
4%

ENROLLMENT FULL-TIME
67%

ENROLLMENT PART-TIME
33%

ENROLLMENT 19 AND UNDER
59%

ENROLLMENT 20-24
24%

ENROLLMENT 25 AND OVER
17%

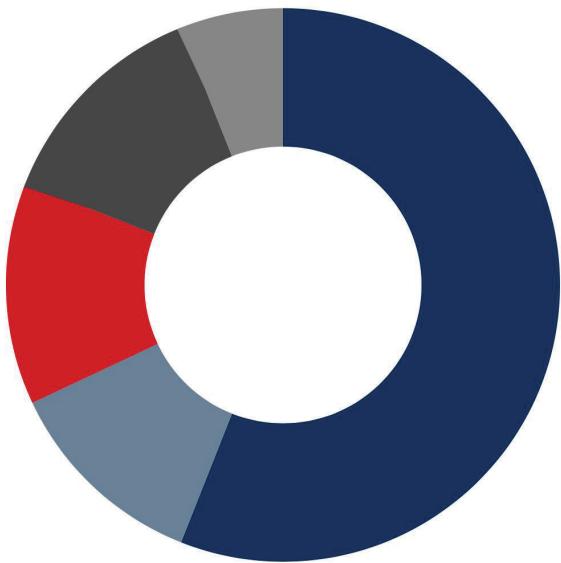
ENROLLMENT FIRST-TIME
22%

ENROLLMENT TRANSFER-IN
16%

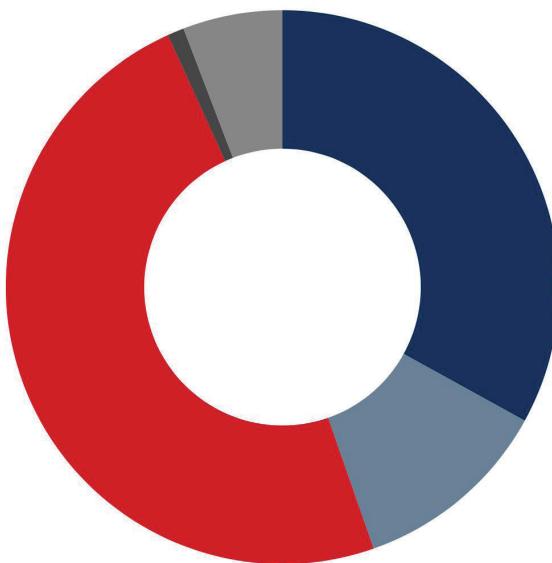
ENROLLMENT CONTINUING
48%

ENROLLMENT
NON-DEGREE SEEKING
14%

EXPENSES



REVENUE



Instructional - All Areas (56%)

Student Services (12%)

Institutional Support (13%)

Operation of Physical Plant (13%)

Student Aid (6%)

Mandatory Transfers (0%)

Tuition and Fees (34%)

County Revenue (12%)

State Revenue (50%)

Federal Revenue (1%)

Other Revenue (3%)

ITAWAMBA COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

C CHICKASAW COUNTY

Amy Anderson	Dr. Betsy Collums
Alford Bell	Barry Dendy
Charles Carson	Dr. Jerome Smith

I ITAWAMBA COUNTY

Carl Comer	Stacy Russell
Ronnie Gholston	Mark Tigner
Michael Nanney	D.L. Wiygul Jr.

L LEE COUNTY

Dan Lee Bishop	William Shack
Ted Gordon	Gill Simmons
Greg McKissick	Jimmy Weeks

M MONROE COUNTY

Jeanette Atkins	Thomas Griffith
Scott Cantrell	Marilyn Sumerford
Danny Gladney	Mac Allen Thomas

P PONTOTOC COUNTY

Gerald Ray Bell	Danny Robbins
Danny Park	James H. Turner
Brock Puckett	Mitchell Turner

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Vice President
Student Services

DR. JOE LOWDER
Dean
Economic and Community Services

MS. SANDI SOUTH
Executive Director
Finance

MR. TIM SENTER
Executive Director
Human Resources and Administration

MR. WAYNE SULLIVAN
Vice President
Development and Planning

DR. MICHELLE SUMEREL
Vice President
Instructional Services



Leaving a Legacy

PRESIDENT MIKE EATON

July 21, 1974...The day that marked the beginning of a 43-year career at Itawamba Junior/Community College for assistant coach/instructor/head coach/director/dean/vice president/assistant to the president/president Mike Eaton.

In case you don't know, July 21, 1974 was on a Sunday, but coaches don't notice those things, especially when football season is a little more than a month away.

Fresh off a head coaching job at Ripley High School, Mike Eaton joined Ben Jones's staff, and he never looked back.

Forty-three years later, now President Eaton has established his own legacy at Itawamba Community College, where he is credited with providing the leadership for every major initiative the College has undertaken in the last few years, including chairman of the Institutional Effectiveness task force, which focused on student persistence, the improvement of retention and an increase in the graduation rate. The task force's "Graduation...It Matters" campaign led to ICC's achieving the highest percentage increase in graduation rates among all 15 two-year institutions in Mississippi, 53.80 in FY 11. In 2013, ICC earned the John C. and Earnestine McCall Halbrook award for the greatest improvement in percentage of athletes graduating (20 percent).

During Eaton's tenure, the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program has named ICC one of the nation's top 150 community colleges three times, and WalletHub has selected ICC as sixth best in the nation.

Currently, a five-year plan is etching a new face on the Tupelo Campus with the addition of a new physical plant and the construction of a two-story general academic building, and a safe shelter/band hall is nearing completion at the Fulton Campus. Renovations and improvements at all three ICC locations have continued to make the College among the most beautiful in the state.

Under Eaton's leadership, initiatives such as dual-credit, accelerated terms and the LEAP summer bridge program have been implemented.

Through ICC's Any Time, Any Place, Anywhere focus, students can now take advantage of multiple entry points. Also, the College has added a Public Health Technology program, for which as one of six recipients in the nation, it earned recognition from the League for Innovation in the Community College for its work in developing programs in public health.

Eaton is quick to credit others for the College's success. "It's been an honor and privilege to serve in various roles throughout my career. When you are blessed with such an outstanding faculty and staff and Board of Trustees, it makes the job of being the president much easier."

As a coach, Mike Eaton established his legacy, too. He has been named to the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges Sports Hall of Fame, ICC Athletic Hall of Fame, National Junior College Athletic Association Hall of Fame, and in 2011 Eaton Field was dedicated in his honor at ICC. He ranks 30th among the NJCAA's All-Time Winningest Coaches and 40th in the NJCAA's Highest Winning Percentage at .629 in 18 seasons. His record as head coach at ICC was 111-64-7, and his resume' includes three state championships, three-time coach of the year, six-time coach of the All-Star Game and coach of more than 20 professional football players, including Ernest Dye, Tim Bowens and Norman Hand.

Mike Eaton has definitely left his footprint on Itawamba Community College, where he has made a significant impact on thousands of people during his 43 years, 21 of those he lived on campus. He says they have touched his life, too.

He and his wife, Marcia, have two daughters, Mallory Eaton and Laura Bates (Todd). They have three grandchildren, Tyler, Sam and Mark Bates, who will most likely be the focus of some of his retirement plans.

"I've had a wonderful 43 years, that is a long time. That is what my routine has been. I have been greatly blessed." And Itawamba Community College is better, too, because on a hot July Sunday in 1974, Mike Eaton began his legacy.

ICC'S SIXTH PRESIDENT

Mr. Mike Eaton



President Mike Eaton stands on what was the 50-yard line of the old football stadium, reflecting on the growth he has seen at Itawamba Community College during his 43-year tenure.

ITAWAMBA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

www.iccms.edu